

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CI, US

SUBJ: CHILE IN THE UNGA: CALL BY CHILEAN MFA POLITICAL ADVISOR

REF: USUN 4557

1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
POLITICAL ADVISOR BERNSTEIN CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT
TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE CHILE HUMAN RIGHTS
RESOLUTION AND OTHER ANTI-CHILE MOVES IN THE UNGA.
BERNSTEIN SAID A STRONG RESOLUTION ON CHILE WOULD HARDEN
ATTITUDES IN CHILE AND INHIBIT NORMALIZATION. HE ASKED
FOR US HELP. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 3 AMBASSADOR ENRIQUE BERSTEIN, POLITICAL
ADVISOR IN THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND FERNANDO
ZEGERS, ALTERNATE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA AND
A MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION TO THE 30TH UNGA,
CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS
RELATED TO CHILE AT THE UN.

3. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT A POSSIBLE HUMAN
RIGHTS RESOLUTION ON CHILE IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE WHICH
THEY SAID WOULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC
REPERCUSSIONS. BERNSTEIN EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT A
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STRONG ANTI-CHILE RESOLUTION IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE WOULD

HARDEN THE ATTITUDES OF BOTH THE GOC AND CHILEAN PEOPLE AND WOULD INHIBIT MOVEMENT TOWARDS NORMALIZATION IN CHILE. HE UNDERLINED CHILE'S PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY TOWARDS ANY INTERVENTION IN CHILEAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. BENNETT SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST WAY TO DAMPEN CRITICISM OF CHILE WOULD BE TO MOVE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION, CITING THE LACK OF ANY SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO CHILEAN CREDENTIALS; HE DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE UN AS LESS HOSTILE TO CHILE THAN LAST YEAR. HE INFORMED BERNSTEIN THAT THE UK AND OTHERS ARE PREPARING A MODERATE RESOLUTION ON CHILE (REFTEL) DESIGNED TO AVOID A POSSIBLE HARSHER EASTERN BLOC RESOLUTION. BERNSTEIN SAID HE HAD SEEN THE UK RESOLUTION AND THAT IT SEEMED QUITE STRONG. HE IS AFRAID THAT A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION MIGHT FALL BETWEEN THE UK RESOLUTION AND A MUCH STRONGER ONE.

5. BERNSTEIN SUGGESTED THAT A GENERAL RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH DID NOT SINGLE OUT CHILE, AND WHICH ESTABLISHED GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL IT MIGHT PRECLUDE, ZEGERS ADDED, A REPETITION OF THE IRREGULARITIES WHICH MADE IT NECESSARY FOR CHILE TO DENY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACCESS TO CHILE. IF A RESOLUTION ON CHILE IS TABLED, BERNSTEIN SAID HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD "APPEAL" TO CHILE RATHER THAN CONDEMN CHILE AND WOULD NOT CALL FOR SANCTIONS.

6. ZEGERS SAID THAT CHILE WAS COUNTING ON THE U.S. FOR HELP AND HOPED THAT WE MIGHT DO SOME DISCREET LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF A RESOLUTION WHICH CHILE WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE.

7. BENNETT, WHO HAS KNOWN BERNSTEIN A LONG TIME, SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEAK FRANKLY. CHILE HAD NOT HELPED ITS CASE BY REFUSING ENTRY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE REPEATED THAT THE MORE QUICKLY CHILE RETURNED TO ITS GREAT TRADITION AS A LEADING EXAMPLE OF A FREE SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA, THE MORE QUICKLY WOULD INTERNATIONAL CONCERN SUBSIDE (WHICH WAS BROADER THAN MERELY THE SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT SITUATION). HE THOUGHT CHILE WOULD HAVE TO

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FACE THE FACT OF AN UNPALATABLE RESOLUTION. WE WOULD WORK TOWARD A REASONABLE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM BUT, STRESSED BENNETT, "CHILE MUST HELP HER FRIENDS HELP HER."
BENNETT

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